

Founder father of Indian Prehistory: Robert Bruce Foote and his contributions to Indian Prehistory

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Introduction

The birth of prehistory took place in Northern Europe in 1859 when the earlier, half-a-century-long findings of primitive stone tools recovered along with fossilized bones of extinct species of mammals from the ancient river gravels of the Somme River in northern France and the site of Hoxne in England. Both these discoveries were ratified by the geologist Joseph Prestwich and the archaeologist John Evans by their presentations respectively, before the Royal Society and Society of Antiquaries of London (Daniel 1964; Van Riper 1993). This is also the time when



Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* and Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* were published. It is heartening to realize that Palaeolithic research commenced in India within just four years after its birth of prehistory in Europe. The credit for this discovery entirely goes to Robert Bruce Foote, the founder father of Indian prehistory (Fig. 1). Foote's credits were he fully realized the implication of his discoveries, corresponded with the leading prehistorians of Britain and was able to attract attention for Indian prehistory than before.

Fig. 1: Robert Bruce Foote (1834-1912)
(Source: Paddyya 2009)

Foote was a geologist by profession and employed in the Geological Survey of India established by colonial government in 1851. While Ball was surveying as geologists of Eastern India, Bruce Foote was entrusted with surveys in South India covering parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Ball's antiquarian pursuits were sporadic and casual and do not seem to have grown out of any larger goals of cultural reconstruction. So, his writings themselves were matter-of-fact reporting of the actual finds, bereft of any meaningful interpretations. He probably also lacked full knowledge of the happenings taking place in Europe. Foote's work was free from these deficiencies. There was a real sense of purpose, and this is reflected in the nature of his field discoveries, the methods he adopted and the interpretations he arrived at. Once, R.D. Oldham called Foote, one of the earliest discoverers and later a most enthusiastic investigator of relics of ancient man in southern India. Thus, his enthusiasm for the subjects and his wide-range discoveries and publications which stand him out among other investigators of prehistoric man in India. In the same year of his first stone tool discovery, Foote and William King discovered Palaeolithic tools at Attirampakkam on 28th September 1863. After his first discovery of Palaeoliths in the valley of *Attirampakkam nulla*, 40-mile northwest of Madras, he discovered his first neoliths in January 1864 and become a confirmed collector of prehistoric objects of all ages and prehistory became a significant part of his scientific career (Pappu 2008).

With a degree in geology, Foote came to India in 1858 at the age of 24 to work at Chennai as an Assistant Geologist and retired as a Superintending Geologist in 1891 (Chakrabarti 1979; Sundara 2004). He then served as the Principal Geologist in the princely states of Baroda (1891-94) and Mysore (1894-97). Subsequently, he settled down at Yercaud in the Shevaroy hills of Tamil Nadu and spent the remaining years of life there till his death in 1912 (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: View of Eva cottage at Yercaud
(Source: Pappu 2008)

Field Surveys

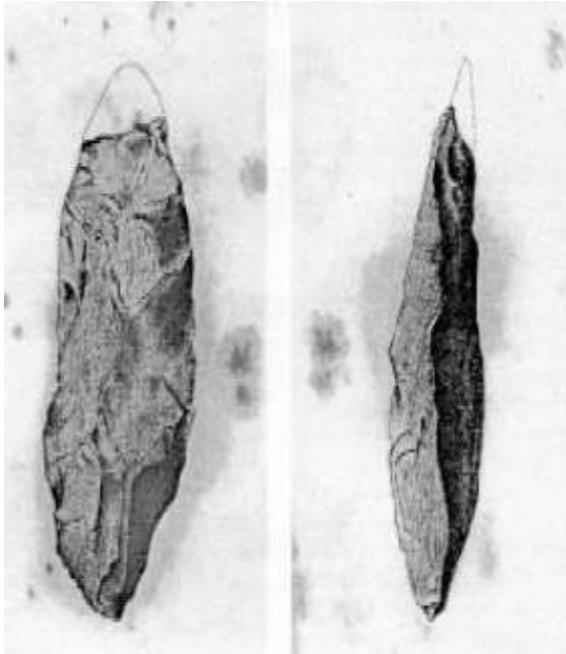
For nearly four decades Foote carried out systematic surveys of the geological formations of many large tracts of South India and also Saurashtra and northern part of Gujarat. His geological surveys in South India dealt with all the major rock formations of the region, viz. the archaean formations comprising schistose and gneissic rocks and Purana formations comprising various sedimentary rocks of the Cuddapah and Kurnool series and the Kaladgi and Bhima series. His reports on these pioneering surveys are widely used even now. Foote is regarded as the Father of South Indian geology (Srikantia 2013). As a labour of love, he developed a keen interest in antiquarian remains and made their investigation a regular component of his geological surveys.

At the outset, it is important to note that Foote's antiquarian work was not a matter of one-time chance finding nor the outcome of what is jocularly called 'Sunday afternoon outings' with family and friends. On the contrary, these grew out of a determined effort to comb the South Indian landscape for possible relics of distant periods left untouched by the various contributions emanating from the Calcutta and Madras centres of Indological research. Foote (1916) explicitly stated that his efforts were inspired by the revolutionary developments taking place in Europe. In short, he was stirred by the British geologist Joseph Prestwich's ratification before the Royal Society in London in May 1859 of the genuine character of stone implements found together with fossil bones of wild cattle and other animals in earlier decades in the ancient drift gravels of northern France by Boucher de Perthes and by John Frere at Hoxne in England. This ratification pushed back human antiquity much before Christian theology conceived of the origin of world and man in 4004 B.C. This ratification was itself a part of and facilitated by radical changes taking place in earth and biological sciences. And in the next decade and half prehistory has emerged as a distinct branch with a methodology of its own, as argued by John Lubbock in his book *Prehistoric Times* (1865). T.H. Huxley's book *Man's Place in Nature* (1863) and Charles Darwin's book *The Descent of Man* (1873) rendered man's origins a part and parcel of the general theory of biological evolution.

Although physically placed in the remote tropical world, Foote was keeping himself fully aware of these momentous developments in European science. The finding of a chipped stone tool from Pallavaram on 30th May 1863 was the first expression of inspiration he derived from Europe (Fig. 3). Fortified by this finding, Foote continued his antiquarian pursuits uninterruptedly for the next three decades and found over 450 sites. He not only kept a good record of the find-spots but made from these places systematic collections of stone tools,

ceramics and other antiquities. After settling down at Yercaud after his retirement in 1897 (Fig. 4 and 5).

Foote devoted the last 15 years of his life to systematic cataloguing, classification and interpretation of the collections. Arising from this work Madras Government Museum published



two catalogues entitled *The Foote Collection of Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities: Catalogue Raisonne* in 1914 and *The Foote Collection of Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities: Notes on their Ages and Distribution* in 1916, four year after his death. These were in addition to several interim papers he had already published in India and Europe. Both in his field discoveries and the preparation of writings about these, Foote benefited from ideas and methods of study being advocated in the various writings that were coming up in Europe in the new science of

prehistory (Paddayya 2009).

Fig. 3: Bifacially worked, pointed stone implement
Found at Pallavaram, near Madras on 30th May 1863



Fig. 4: First batch of geologist employed by GSI



Fig. 5: Foote with his extended family

Meticulous Landscape Observations

One striking aspect of Foote's work concerns his unbounded fascination for the Indian landscape and the meticulous details he provides about its various features. This is amazing considering that he had to contend with a different climate and an alien cultural-linguistic setting and that for months together he had to live in remotely located areas and places which even after 150 years still lack some of the basic amenities. He transferred the geological method of systematic observation of landscape features and description of the stratigraphy of rock formations to his archaeological findings. So, we have in his Catalogues accurate information about the various find-spots and their cultural contexts. Using his information many of the workers who selected the same areas for detailed study much later could identify the spots/sites mentioned by him.

Almost hundred years later, Paddayya was able to locate with a little effort the site of Yedihalli in the Baichbal valley of North Karnataka where in April 1870 Foote had found a few limestone tools of Lower Palaeolithic character. With this clue, Paddayya discovered a rich cluster of over 200 Acheulian sites in the Hunsgi and Baichbal valleys between 1974 and 2000 (Paddayya 1982). A unique feature of these sites concerns the use of limestone for making stone tools. High-level gravels are thin, horizontal sheets of fluvial deposits lying away from present banks of rivers and much beyond their flood levels. Geomorphologically speaking, these are not prominent features of the landscape at all. But Foote not only identified several of these deposits along the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers but explained their origin in terms of rock barriers across ancient channels (Foote 1876; 1895). These deposits hold vital clues for understanding the origins and development of river channels.

His keen sense of observation included weather conditions also. Camping in the open in winter in the same Southern Deccan, or South Maratha country, one morning he woke up to find the ground around his tent fully wet. This made him realize that, like rainfall, dew-drip also contributes to the replenishment of soil moisture.

Discoveries

Foote's discovery of a locality, around 15 or 16 miles west of Bellary, found some neolithic implements associated with large conical mound consisting soft yellowish slag mainly, in layers interstratified with midden stuff which according to him represented a settlement of straw huts burnt at several intervals. Discovery is also made of two more implements-bearing gravels, one near *Kaladgi*, at a place called *Tolamanti* and the other near the village of *Tolur*, about 8 miles northwest of *Manoli*. In *Tolamanti* gravel, the implements occurred in situ and an upper molar

tooth of a bovine animal thoroughly mineralised and partly encrusted with hard *Kanakar* was found in a small patch of *Kankar*- cemented gravel on the banks of the *Yelhatti* nullah. Foote explored the region south of the *Palar* river. The sites are *Ninniyur* (about 40 miles northwest of Trichinopoly), *Vallam* (7 miles west-southwest of *Tanjore*), *Shuragudi* (16 miles south of *Pudukottai*) and *Madura*. Near *Madura*, he reports the occurrence of a chert core believes to be first discovered in South of central India. He also explored the northern half of *Nellore* district where he earlier found implements of the "*Madras* types" and several scrapers in unknown lateritic beds in the valleys of the *Penneru* and *Maneru* rivers. He explored southwestern Deccan area where the sites are mostly in *Malaprabha* and one of them is in *Krishna* near *Agani*, 12 or 15 miles west of *Shorapur*, a chert was found as *Shellugi* near *Bijapur*. In 1883 in the lateritic conglomerate north of the *Madura* town ("on the geology of *Madura* and *Tinnevalley* districts", MGSI,20, P.50") he observed scrapers or knives of brown, buff or greyish chert. The *Billa Surgam* caves lie in a valley in the range of low hills and plateaus forming the western side of the *Kurnool* basin, 3 miles east-southwest of the modern village of *Baitumcherloo*. First reported by Newbold and catch the attention of T.H. Huxley, requested for further exploration from Grant duff, then governor of Madras. The exploration was entrusted to Foote and he visited two caves mentioned by Newbold and excavated a portion smaller cave to a depth of 15 feet. Some bones were found and ascribed to living species. Some small rock-shelters were also noted, due to discovery of an oval quartzite implement nearby, it is suggested to be a possible palaeolithic occupation of the caves. Foote also discovered more caves in the vicinity and most important seems to be *Yerra Zari Gabbi* where exploratory pits revealed some fragments of pottery and charcoal at different levels. In 1881 he found core flakes and fragments of pottery in a blown sand deposit at 14 miles south-west of *Tuticorin*. Most of them were reddish-brown chert and some are translucent quartz. In this same time, he found a small bone pendant with a drilled hole and incised pattern wash out of the black mud of a submerged forest, 25 miles west of the *Pamban* strait. In 1883 he came across at *Banganapalle* in the *Kurnool* District which is either a village site or a place where burial has taken place, yielded red and black polished pottery, cores, iron-implements and west of this site yielded good number of cores, flakes and scrapers of jasper, chert, agate with a few other things.

After Foote's death and successful researches left behind by him were reinvestigated and carried on in modern phase, began with Wheeler in 1947 and it has been followed up by Subbarao, Allchin, Sankhalia, Nagaraja Rao, S.R.Rao, Paddaya, Rami Reddy, Sundara, Sharma and others. Foote's works and observations were revisited by many pioneers, scholars like in the late 1930s,

De Terra and Patterson and Krishnaswami followed up Foote's work in the madras area. Also K.D. Banerjee and A.K. Ghosh have begun investigations in this area. Prehistoric investigations were begun in Gujarat after Foote by Sankalia in the 1940s. Since then a steady stream of work on Gujarat stone age, notably done by Zeuner, Wainright, Sankhalia, Bridget Allchin and her associates.

Division of the Past

Foote not only found over 450 locations or sites yielding prehistoric remains in South India and Gujarat but was also the first to visualize that these sites represent progressive stages of cultural development. While his contemporary Ball placed all flaked as well polished tools found in different parts of the subcontinent in the same period and explained their differences in terms of ethnic variability, Foote grouped his collections under three progressively elaborate ages – Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Iron Age. He recognized a two-phase division (Early and Late) within the Iron Age and also informally provided for two stages within the Palaeolithic – a Chelleo-Mousterian stage and a Magdalenian stage. This Three-Age system is indeed the basis of Indian prehistory as a whole. Needless to say, subsequent studies fully upheld it and only introduced minor divisions within the three periods.

Foote's partitioning of the prehistoric past into three periods was to some extent based upon his close observation of the context in which the cultural remains were found in the field. At *Pallavaram, Attirampakkam* and many other sites, Palaeolithic implements were found in gravel conglomerate several feet below the surface. In the case of rivers in Gujarat gravels containing Palaeolithic tools lay 100 to 200 feet below the surface. But the Neolithic and Iron Age remains came from the surface or from occupation deposits close to the surface. In other words, Foote made use of the principle of stratigraphy which he had employed for determining the age of geological formations.

Foote's partitioning was also based on a detailed analysis of the technological and typological features of the stone tool assemblages, particularly the differences between the Palaeolithic implements shaped by chipping and flaking and the Neolithic tools and implements bearing evidence of grinding and polishing (Foote 1916). Foote used as his guide John Evans's book *Ancient Stone Implements, Weapons and Ornaments of Great Britain* published in 1872. This is the first comprehensive book published on stone tool technology and typology. Foote identified 14 distinct types among the Indian Palaeolithic implements – axes, spears of two types, digging tools, circular implements, choppers and scrapers. He also inferred that some of the artefacts

with pointed ends were hafted on wooden sticks and used as spearheads. In the case of Neolithic tools, he recognized as many as 41 types (14 sub-types among axes and six among chisels) and pointed out that four consecutive stages were involved in their manufacture, viz. chipping, pecking, grinding and polishing. Foote thus initiated typological studies in India. But in the context of India as a whole Foote should not have ignored the existence of copper age. In 1905, seven years before Foote's death, Vincent Smith published a paper entitled "The Copper Age And Prehistoric Bronze Implements Of India" in *Indian Antiquary*. Foote completely ignored these discoveries. But more surprising is Foote's non-recognition of a mesolithic period in Indian prehistory and his continuous belief in a hiatus between the palaeolithic and the neolithic. Vincent Smith, in 1906 made a survey of what he called "pigmy flints" and which is came between the palaeolithic and neolithic periods, Foote himself found microlithic sites in the *Sawyerpuram Teri* and Gujarat sand-dunes, but he consistently referred to them as neolithic. As microlithic tools were found in his neolithic assemblages, Foote never thought there existence in the separate intermediate level. But this doesn't justify his not taking any notice of the concept of mesolithic which was hugely accepted by prehistorian around 1900.

Distribution of Sites

In tune with his overall aim of reconstructing prehistoric lifeways, Foote went beyond the location of isolated find-spots of cultural material but made efforts to identify sites where people lived. He hinted at the existence of such sites of primary context belonging to the Palaeolithic in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He is on surer ground when it comes to Neolithic sites, many of which he found in the Bellary-Anantapur areas of Southern Deccan. Furthermore, he prepared a large map and plotted on it all the sites he had found, intending to understand their distribution concerning various geographical features. Two of his observations have stood the test of time. He found a concentration of 36 Neolithic sites in the Archaean granite area of Southern Deccan (Foote 1887) and linked it to the plentiful supplies of pasture around the hills and availability of flat surfaces, rock-shelters, suitable rocks and water springs on their tops. Likewise, he noted that the Palaeolithic groups mainly occupied the plateau tracts of South India and avoided the high rainfall zones of *Konkan* coast and the *Sahyadris*.

Ashmounds

Foote's observations about ashmounds once again reflect his scientific approach and a keen sense of observation of landscape features. As it has already been pointed out, Mackenzie noticed three or four of these ashmounds in the *Bellary-Chitradurga* area in the opening years of

the nineteenth century. Foote found some more sites during his geological surveys of South Maratha country or Southern Deccan. He disregarded earlier interpretations linking the ash deposits to volcanic activity, ancient cremations and smelting operations. In 1884, he found pottery and neolithic celts east of Hyderabad. In 1885, *Bellary* was revisited and more neolithic settlements were discovered in this area and according to his finds of pottery and implements from the ashmound, he did not doubt that these represented settlements. Based upon his recovery of Neolithic pottery and stone tools from ash deposits, and closeness of the mounds to Neolithic settlements, he ascribed them to the Neolithic age. The results of chemical analysis of some of the ash samples from the Wandalli ashmound in Raichur area, completed by Professor W.E. Smith in the Chemistry Laboratory of Madras University, enabled him to understand the nature of ash deposits. The high percentage of SiO_2 present in the samples revealed the cow dung origin of ash deposits. Considering the pastoral character of the Neolithic culture of South India, it was easy for Foote to explain how the huge accumulations of cow dung took place at the Neolithic sites. Based upon some ethnographic analogies he concluded that these accumulations were burnt due to chance and carelessness of Neolithic people.

The subsequent investigations by Raymond Allchin and others in the last century fully corroborated the Neolithic age and cow dung origin of the ash deposits. Allchin's excavation at *Utnur* in Andhra Pradesh exposed the remains of a Neolithic cattle pen, and Paddayya's excavations at *Budihal* in Karnataka showed that ashmounds were regular pastoral occupation sites (Paddayya 2002). Employing various kinds of ethnographic evidence, Allchin (1963) further argued that cow dung burnings were ceremonial and formed part of Neolithic cattle fertility rites.

Ethnographic Analogies

Foote may well be the first person in India to use the present for interpreting prehistoric life-ways. This has now come to be known as ethnoarchaeology. He recognized many parallels between the Neolithic culture and the village way of life in South India – as reflected in aspects such as the closeness of villages to hills, nature of dwellings, agricultural and pastoral practices, and pottery use. Considering the simple ways of life of the lower groups of the society like the Yanadis whom he had come across during field surveys, Foote even held it probable that their ancestors were the authors of distant Stone Age cultures.

From the foregoing rapid survey of Foote's various field findings and his writings on these, we see the picture of an outstanding product of scientific ferment or new reformation of the

nineteenth century Europe, who readily accepted an assignment in a distant and alien land and engaged himself for decades together in the investigation of its natural and human history, totally oblivious of the radically different climatic as well as living and linguistic conditions. Over and above accomplishing his officially assigned job with true distinction, Foote adopted antiquarian pursuits as a true labour of love and finally added a robust chapter on the preliterate phase to the study of India's past. His three-decade-long, systematic and inspired field discoveries of prehistoric sites were fully matched by his meticulous record-keeping and, further on, detailed studies and writings on the collections which fully reflected developments in contemporary antiquarian and scientific studies in Europe. Foote is yet another example par excellence of professional amateurs in the history of archaeology.

His Writings and Publications on Prehistoric Research

As we all know Foote did extensive and tireless research on the prehistory of India and attract many attentions to it. Not only he did research but also writes and published his works on many journals, magazines and articles. Also, many of his works on both geological and prehistorical were collected and listed by many pioneers, fellow researchers and scholars. Among them are R.D. Oldham who listed his writings up to 1887 and H.C. Dasgupta who made a comprehensive list of his writings on prehistory up to 1916 available in the bibliography of Indian prehistoric writings. Before Foote died in 1912, he finished his detailed catalogue of all his collections of prehistoric antiquities, which later sold to Madras Museum in 1904. Madras museum then published it after Foote's death in two volumes. The first volume published in 1914 which contain a descriptive list of the antiquity's collections arranged according to area and localities in which they were found. The second volume published in 1916, containing Foote's notes on the ages, antiquities distributions, the plates and a map, a general index, and certain additional notes (called addendum) Foote himself prepared it. The second volume represents Foote's works and ideas more significantly on Indian Prehistory. The first publication of Foote on Indian Prehistory, "*On The Occurrence of Stone Implements In Lateritic Formations In Various Parts Of The Madras And North Arcot Districts*" was in Madras journal of literature and science, 3rd s., part II, 1866, pp.1-35. Foote's Palaeolithic discoveries in 1863-64, were reported to Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, by Dr. Oldham of geological survey in 1864 and 1865. In 1865, Foote's paper was printed in 50 copies and sent to leading archaeologists of Britain, one among them was J.D Evans with other pioneers. The paper divided into 4 sections, first describing the history of these discoveries, second describing the detailed geological features of implements

bearing formations, third describing the raw materials and its typology and finally the fourth section describing the point that implements makers of Europe and South-India were contemporary and there was an extremely wet climate in the tropics. Foote's second paper "*On The Distribution of Stone Implements In Southern India*", was published in *OJGS*, 24, 1868, pp. 484-95. It concerned with the geological implications of the implements bearing deposits than with its geographical distribution of the implements. Foote's reading of this paper before the geological society was emphasized that the people who made the quartzite implements were not the original Aryans but the ancestors of the modern tribes living in the hills and the similarity in types between implements suggested a single centre of origin of man from which dispersion took place. Foote read another paper on the same topic in the international congress of prehistoric Archaeology at Norwich. The abstract of the paper published in *Transactions of the International Congress Of Prehistoric Archaeology*, Norwich 1868, London, p.236. Also, he briefly mentions the occurrence of chipped implements in the lateritic formation and the *conjeevaram* gravels in the neighbourhood of Madras in his "*Notes On Geology of Neighbourhood Of Madras*", *RGSI*, 3, no.1, pp.11-17. Foote reports the discovery of two localities of neolithic celts and rubbing stones on hill terraces near *Bellary*, on the brief note "*Discovery of Prehistoric Remains In India*", published in *Geological Magazine*, 10, 1873, p.187. In 1876, Foote reports (pp. 240-43) in "*The Geological Features Of The South Maharatta Country And Adjacent Districts*" published in *MGSI*, 12, the occurrence of Palaeolithic implements in two beds of *Kankar*-cemented gravel, one along the *Malaprabha* and the other along its tributary, the *Benihalla*. In 1880 he published his "*Notes On The Occurrence Of Stone Implements In The Coastal Laterite, South Of Madras And In High-Level Gravels And Other Formations In The South Maharatta Country*", in *Geological Magazine*, 7, pp.542-46, this paper contains a list of the implementiferous localities discovered by him since he read his paper to the geological society in 1868. In 1884, Foote published two papers on the *Billa Surgam* caves in Andhra, both in *RGSI*, 17, pp. 27-34 and pp.200-208. He also published a paper on "*Notes On Prehistoric Finds In India*", published on *JRAI*, 16, 1887, pp.70-75, which is a summary of letters he wrote to John Evans about his discoveries. He published a paper on neolithic settlements, particularly on *Bellary*, *Anantpur* and *Kurnool*, which were basic subjects of his paper "*Notes On Some Recent Neolithic And Palaeolithic Finds In South India*", *JASB*, 56, part II, 1887, pp.259-82. In this paper, Foote strongly criticizes Valentine Ball's theory that the neolithic celts were mainly distributed in northeast India while in South only chipped implements. After this, a brief paper "*Remarks On Mr Ball's Note*", published in *PASB*, 1888,

pp.194-99, was written in response to Ball's reply to his criticism where he points out that ball's theory was not based on facts. In the monographs "*The Geology of Baroda State*" published in 1898 where he describes (pp.84-104) the occurrence of Palaeoliths in the *Sabarmati* gravels and small stone tools, pottery and animal bones in the "loess" deposits of the area.

Impact of Foote's Work

One widely accepted way of assessing the place of a person in the development of scientific thought is to look at the impact of his contributions. From this point of view too Foote deserves high grades. He made prompt efforts to bring his findings to the notice of the scholarly world by reporting them in various journals both in India and outside. The initial findings from *Pallavaram*, *Attirampakkam* and other places around Madras made by him and his colleague William King were first reported in the *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* (Foote 1866). During his visit to England in 1868 on sick leave, he made presentations before two scholarly gatherings. In June Foote presented a paper entitled "*On The Distribution Of Stone Implements In Southern India*" (Foote 1868) at the Geological Society of London. This paper excited much interest in India. T.H. Huxley who presided over the session remarked that these implements were probably made by the ancestors of simple communities still living in the hill-jungles of Deccan. Robert James, M. Leonard and Myron also commented on the Indian findings. Joseph Prestwich was so struck by the similarities between the Indian and European Palaeolithic implements to remark that "their fabricators seem to have been taught in the same school" (Foote 1868). In August Foote took part in the International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology held at Norwich and read a paper entitled "*On Quartzite Implements of Palaeolithic types from the Laterite Formations on the East Coast of Southern India*" (Foote 1869). John Lubbock, Sir Walter Elliot and J.W. Flower complimented him for his discoveries. Evans made a specific reference to the Indian Palaeolithic implements in his famous book on typology (Evans 1872).

Then in 1873 Foote was sent by the Geological Survey as part of the Indian delegation to the International Exhibition of Science and Scientific Materials held at Vienna. Foote included his collection of stone implements as part of the Indian materials comprising rocks, minerals and ores. The Indian Stone Age findings once again created much interest and North European antiquarians like Nilsson showed keen interest in purchasing some of the specimens. But Foote promptly brought these specimens back to India and handed them to the Geological Survey in Kolkata (Foote 1916). It is good to remind ourselves here that when Foote was making his field

discoveries and simultaneously bringing these to the notice of scholarly world in Europe, West Asia (Levant) and East Africa, which now occupy a prominent place in world prehistory, were hardly in the picture.

As concerns the impact of Foote's work in India itself, fortunately, the stiff resistance which the revolution in earth science and Darwin's theory of evolution had to face from the religious circles in Europe did not arise here, thanks largely to the limitless dimensions of space and time and change of living forms from one to another (e.g. the concept of Dasavataras) provided by ancient Indian thought. Rather the findings in Europe and Foote's discoveries in India were received enthusiastically.

More importantly, Bruce Foote's actual field discoveries as well as his detailed record-keeping not only inspired to but also greatly facilitated many field studies undertaken subsequently in different parts of peninsular India (Sundara 2004). In 1963, A. Ghosh then the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey Of India, wrote his editorial notes in *Ancient India*, 18-19, on the work of Foote. In *Asian Perspectives* in 1962, A.P. Khatri wrote on a century of prehistoric research in India in which the figures of Foote necessarily loomed largely. Allchin published his monograph "*Neolithic Cattle-Keepers Of South India*" in which he paid warm tributes to Foote's pioneering research in the same area. In 1966 D. Sen and A.K. Ghosh edited a volume of essays on prehistory with international contribution and this was dedicated to the memory of Foote. In the history of colonial geology or archaeology, Foote stands out as a man who was keen to aim for the highest standards of perfection, skills were also applied in the mapping, documentation and research of pre and protohistoric sites in India.

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